STATEMENT-I

State-wise List of out of Turn Telephone Connection Issued by Telecom Commission Headquarter since 1.7.96

State (Telecom Circle/Telephone District)	No. of Telephone
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	009
Assam	Nil
Bihar	007
MTNL Mumbai	002
Calcutta Telephones	005
MTNL New Delhi	135
Gujarat	003
Haryana	008
Himachal Pradesh	Nil
Jammu and Kashmir	015
Karnataka	028
Kerala	019
Madhya Pradesh	010
Madras Telephones	006
Maharashtra	008
North-East	Nil
Orissa	001
Punjab	005
Rajasthan	012
Tamil Nadu	002
Uttar Pradesh	569
West Bengal	001
Total	845

STATEMENT-II

Guidelines

(I) *CRITERIA FOR GRANT OF OUT OF TURN PRIORITY FOR TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS*

(a) Applicants suffering from prolonged and serious illness like Cancer, serious kidney deseases, cirrhosis of liver.

(b) Widows genuinely placed in highly adverse social condition

(c) Genuine victims of natural calamities and man-made catastrophes who do not have telephone facilities. This should include cases of terrorist threats only.

(d) Senior Citizens of India (70 years and above).

(e) Public servants performing arduous nature of duties but not provided with telephone at residence by thier employers.

(f) Statutory, Government aided and Government recognized Educational Institutions and Accridited Journalists.

(g) Physically Handicapped persons with more than 60% disability.

(h) Any special or extraordinary case deserving compassionate consideration (including recognized Social Workers).

Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

4174 DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of post offices, out of them are functioning in rural areas alongwith the number of villages having no post offices at all; and

(c) the time by which the post offices in these villages, particularly in the villages of Meerut Division are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of Post Offices functioning in Uttar Pradesh is 20084.

(b) The number of Post Offices functioning in rural areas is 17990. 94814 villages in Uttar Pradesh are without Post Offices, out of total number of 112804.

(c) Post offices are opened progressively subject to norm based justification and availability of resources. During the current Annual Plan, 31 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

Loss to Deptt. of Posts

4175. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts had to suffer heavy losses during the past few years particularly in case of foreign parcel mail because of the domination of the private couriers services in the market although there has been a sufficient increase in the domestic speed post service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to deal with the situation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There have been no heavy financial losses to the Department of Posts as such in case of foreign parcel mail during the past few years. However, there has been a decline in the traffic of foreign parcels sent from India to foreign countries (outward) and received from foreign countries for delivery in India (inward). The decline in traffic is mainly due to the availability of more providers of this services in the market like private couriers, air freight companies, freight forwarding agents, etc.

(b) The details of the decline in the traffic of foreign parcels in last four years is as follows :

Year	Outward Parcel	Inward Parcel
1992-93	1,81,168	2,87,654
1993-94	1,61,300	2,65,763
1994-95	1,22,090	2,53,750
1995-96	1,10,203	2,30,301

(c) Continuous efforts are made to improve the quality of parcel service to face the competition posed by the other providers of the services.

(d) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

Out of Order Telephones

4176. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Exchanges in Delhi are not working property, particularly in Shakti Nagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Exchange-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government for providing better telephone facilities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Majority of the Exchanges in Delhi, which are digital electronic are working properly. However, some electromechanical exchanges such as at Shakti Nagar, do not provide sophisticated facilities at par with digital electronic exchanges. It is proposed to replace all electro machnical exchanges by digital electronic during the 9th Plan period.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) (i) Replacement of old and life expired exchanges by modern technology exchanges.

(ii) Replacement of fault prone underground cables by jelly filled cables.

(iii) Laying of cables in ducts.

(iv) Introduction of modern tools and testing aids in the network.

(v) Provision of 100% junction network on digital Optical Fibre Cables (OFC).

(vi) Introduction of wireless technology on local loop.

(vii) Upgradation of external plant.

(viii) Training to the staff to increase skill in modern technology.

(ix) Computerisation of various customers services.

[English]

Postal Service in Village Panchayats of West Bengal

4177. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of village Panchayats in West Bengal, which have been provided with Post and Telegraph Office facility so far;

(b) the number of P and T offices proposed to be provided during 1996-97;

(c) the time limit fixed for providing this facility in every village Panchayat;

(d) the number of Post Offices under village Panchayats where STD facility is available;

(e) whether there is any time bound scheme for providing STD facility in every village Panchayat Post Offices;

(f) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 3320 Gram Panchayat Villages in West Bengal have been provided with Post Office facility so far.

Telegraph : 1579 villages have been provided Telegraph facility in West Bengal.

(b) *Post* : There is a target to open 4 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in West Bengal during 1996-97.

Telegraph - Nil

(c) *Post*

Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Schemes on norms based justification subject to availability of resources and plan targets. Hence no time-limit can be fixed for providing the facility in every Village Panchayat.

Telegraph

No target is fixed as the Telegraph facility is provided on demand and justification of traffic.